

Method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising the production of a plurality of amplicates of a section of this nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a binding sequence A', which is essentially complementary to a sequence A of the nucleic acid, and the other can bind to a binding sequence C which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap with A, contacting the amplicates with a probe having a binding sequence D which can bind to a sequence B which is located between the sequences A and C or to the complement thereof, and detecting the formation of a hybrid of the amplicate and probe where the sequence located between the binding sequences A and C contains no nucleotides that do not belong to the binding sequence D of the probe or its complement D'.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 5, and 16 to read as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising:
 - (a)- producing a plurality of amplicates of a section of the nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a binding sequence A', which is essentially complementary to a sequence A of one strand of the nucleic acid, and the other can bind to a binding sequence C which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap A; and
 - (b)- contacting the amplicates with a probe having a binding sequence D which can bind to a sequence B located between the sequences A and C or to the complement thereof; and
 - (c)- detecting the formation of a hybrid of the amplicate and probe, wherein the sequence between the binding sequences A and C contains no nucleotides that do not belong to a sequence E of the amplicate that is bound by binding sequence D of the probe and the amplicate does not exceed a total length of 100 nucleotides.
5. (Twice amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the total length of the amplicates does not exceed 60 nucleotides.